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First name: Mark

Last name: Ottenad

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a forest user and a beneficiary of clean waters that the National Forests produce, I am very concerned about the NW Forest Plan amendment process.

Following are the key principles to maintain the integrity of the NWFP:

#### 1. Protect Imperiled Species and Biodiversity

The NWFP has safeguarded old-growth-dependent wildlife like the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet, along with salmon that rely on clean, cold streams for the last three decades. Unfortunately, these species are still under threat, and weakening protections now would have devastating consequences for their survival. Conservation measures that prioritize habitat for these species must remain at the heart of any NWFP update.

#### 2. Protect and Recover Old-Growth Forests

Our remaining old-growth forests are invaluable. Not only must we protect existing old-growth stands, but we must also allow future old-growth - mature forests - to grow in order to recover the forests we have lost to logging. Logging in older forests undermines decades of progress. A credible forest plan should prioritize long-term forest recovery and recruiting more old growth, not short-term logging interests.

#### 3. Make Climate Action Central to Forest Management

Northwest forests are among the most powerful carbon sinks in the world. Logging mature and old-growth forests releases stored carbon, while natural forest processes lock it away for centuries. As addressing climate change becomes ever more urgent, any update to the NWFP must prioritize carbon storage and sequestration as a cornerstone of forest management-aligning with President Biden's climate goals. The fight against climate change demands that we protect, not exploit, these natural climate solutions.